

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

1               **Claim 1 (original):** A method of operating on a coloured  
2       digitised image in a computer to derive therefrom the image in  
3       abstract computer representation, comprising the steps of:  
4               (a) creating a digital image in a plurality of colours,  
5       with each colour representing an assigned set of features of the  
6       image;  
7               (b) storing in the computer for each possible feature  
8                       (i) one or more characteristic signatures of its  
9       graphical representation,  
10                  (ii) its associated abstract computer  
11       representation, and  
12                  (iii) the associated set to which the feature  
13       belongs;  
14               (c) segmenting the digitised image from step (a) into its  
15       respective colours;  
16               (d) selecting one feature of one of the segmented colours  
17       of step (c) and comparing the selected feature with each feature  
18       of each of the sets stored in the computer at step (b);  
19               (e) identifying a match for the feature selected in step  
20       (d), and assigning to the set of stored features containing the  
21       matched feature the associated segmented colour;  
22               (f) comparing each feature of the matched segmented colour  
23       of the digitised image with all the stored features of the

24       associated segmented colour color and identifying matches  
25       therebetween, thereby to derive for each feature in digitised  
26       graphic representation a respective matched feature in computer  
27       representation; and

28                 (g) repeating steps (d), (e) and (f) for other segmented  
29       colours, thereby to assign each colour to a respective one of the  
30       sets of features stored in the computer in computer  
31       representation and to match features of the digitised image with  
32       respective ones of the features stored in the computer.

1                 **Claim 2 (original):** A method according to claim 1, wherein  
2       the matching obtained in step (e) comprises the best match  
3       between a selected feature of the digital image and the stored  
4       features in abstract computer representation.

1                 **Claim 3 (currently amended):** A method according to claim 1  
2       ~~or claim 2~~, wherein the digital image contains one set of  
3       features in one, and only one, more colour than the number of  
4       assigned sets stored in the computer in step (b), whereby for  
5       said coloured set of features no match is obtainable in step (e),  
6       and no derivation is effected in step (f).

1                 **Claim 4 (original):** A method according to claim 3, wherein  
2       the non-assigned set of features comprises sketches.

1                 **Claim 5 (currently amended):** A method according to ~~any one~~  
2       ~~of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the sets of features  
3       comprise letters, digits, icons or symbols.

1           **Claim 6 (currently amended)**: A method according to ~~any one~~  
2         ~~the of the preceding claims~~ claim 1, wherein the digital image  
3         is inputted into the computer by means of 'paint' software.

1           **Claim 7 (currently amended)**: A method according to ~~any one~~  
2         ~~of claims 1 to 5~~ claim 1, wherein a coloured image is drawn  
3         manually, is scanned by a colour scanner, and is stored in  
4         the computer as the digital image.